



By the King.

# A Proclamation for restraint of killing, dressing, and eating of Flesh in Lent, or on Fish dayes, appointed by the Law, to be heereafter strictly obserued by all sorts of people.



Whereas, for the benefit and commoditie of this Our Realme of England, as well in the maintenance of Our Naue and Shipping (a principall strength of this Island) as for the sparing and increase of Flesh victuall, diuers good Lawes and Statutes haue bene provided, for the due obseruation of Lent, and other dayes appointed for Fish daies, which from time to time haue been seconded and quickened by sundry Our Proclamations, and other Actes and Ordinances of State: And whereas, notwithstanding the many good provisions heeretofore had and made in that kinde, we yet finde the inordinate liberty now vsually taken by all sorts of people to kill, dresse, and eate Flesh in the Lent season, and on other dayes and times prohibited by Law, is become an euill of such inueterate growth, as it requireth more then ordinary care to suppress the same:

We therefore much affecting the Reformation of this so great an euill (and enemy to the plenty of Our Kingdomes) haue thought fit estloones (and that thus timely, the better to take away the excuse, and to prevent the provisions of Flesh that vsually men make against the Lent season) To expresse Our selfe and our Royall Commandement in this behalfe: wherein without any future declaration of Our pleasure in this kind, we shall expect and require from all our Subjects, that due Notice be taken, and that a strict and continued obedience and conformity be yeelded thereunto in all succeeding times.

And therefore we doe straitly Charge and Command all and euery person and persons whatsoever to whom it may appertaine; Carefullie to provide and see that these Orders following may be due obserued and put in execution, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such penalties as by the Lawes of this Our Realme may be inflicted vpon the Offenders for their contempt or neglect of Us and Our Lawes, whereof we shall shew Our selues most sensible.

And first, whereas we find that the chiefest cause of these disorders hath growen from the Licences that haue bin granted to Butchers to kill and vtter flesh contrary to Law, and that by Our Lawes no Mayor, Justice of Peace, or other person of what degree or quality soeuer, can grant any Licence in this kinde, And that the Lords and others of Our Prīue Councell, doe by Our direction forbear to grant the same, or to giue way thereunto; Our Will and pleasure is vpon the penalties provided by Law, and such further punishment to be inflicted vpon the offenders, as shall be thought meet, that no such Licence shall bee granted for the killing or vttering of flesh, And that no Butcher or other person whatsoever, doe by colour thereof, kill, vtter, or put to sale, any flesh contrarie to the Lawes established and provided in that behalfe.

And for the auoiding of such inconueniences hereafter, Our Will and pleasure is, That the Lord Mayor of our City of London, and euery other Officer & Justice of Peace, shall call before them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Cookes, Alehousekeepers, Tauerneers, and keepers of Ordinarie Tables, and such others that vtter victuals, & to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, what Flesh is, or hath bene during the Lent season, or other dayes prohibited by the Law, dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses, which if they shall refuse to doe, then to commit to prison the said seruants so refusing vpon their Oathes to declare the truth.



The Lord Maior shall also yeerely before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Taverners within the City Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such person as hee shall appoint meete for that purpose, and shall take Recognizances with sufficient Sureties of euery of them in good summes of One hundred pounds of the Principal, and their Sureties thirtie pounds apiece, to Our Majesty, not to dresse any Flesh in their houses in the Lent time, or at other times prohibited for any person, nor suffer it to be eaten contrary to the Law. The like Recognizance with Sureties, shall be taken of the like parties vpon like penalties, by the Iustices of Peace of Our Citie of Westminster, & Liberties thereof. And euery of the said Recognizances to be certified into Our Exchequer. And for the Butchers and others that come with victual of Flesh out of the Countrey to the City, Our pleasure is, That the Lord Maior shall cause certayne persons to watch at the Gates and other places in the Suburbs, where Flesh may be brought, to view and search, and to intercept the same: and if any of those watchmen shall be found negligent and corrupt in his Charge, then hee to be committed to prison during the whole Lent.

And to the end that Fishermen may imploy themselves to Sea with better encouragement then heretofore, and that the Fishmongers may furnish themselves with such store from time to time hereafter, as shall be expedient, as well for the provision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasonable rates; Wee will that they take notice of this Our Commandement and constant resolution for the obseruance of Lent, and Fish-dayes, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required. And furthermore, as we thinke it fit that euery man should be a rule of order and abstinence in his house, as well in respect of the publique, as of his priuate ease and benefit, So wee straightly charge and command all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehouse-keepers, and Taverners, not to make any Supper for any person or persons whatsoever vpon Friday, either in Lent or out of Lent; nor to suffer any meate to be then dresse, vnterred, sold or eaten in their houses, vpon such punishment as is due to those that shall contemne Our Royall pleasure and Commandement.

And inasmuch as vpon further aduice and consideration had, that the restraint of killing and dresse of flesh is no sufficient remedie for the mischief, vnlesse there be better care taken also to suppress the lawfull and inordinate eating of flesh in the time of Lent, and on other dayes and times hereunto, herewith Our Subjects haue accustomed themselves rather for delicacie then for necessity. It is therefore Our Royall Will and pleasure, and accordingly we doe heereby straightly prohibit and forbid all Our Subjects of what degree or qualitie soeuer within this Our Realme, to eat any manner of flesh in the time of Lent, or on other dayes now vsually obserued as Fish-dayes, without a speciall Licence first obtained from the Bishop of the Diocesse, or such other as by the Law is authorized to giue Licence in that behalfe, (which we will and Command shall be sparingly granted in cases of necessity onely) vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and to bee proceeded against by the Attourney Generall in Our Court of Starre Chamber, as contemners of Our Royall Commandement, and vpon such further penaltie as by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme is inflicted on those as shall wilfully offend in this kinde.

And as these Orders are to be executed in the City of London, and places neere to the same, So is Our pleasure and Commandement, That Our Iustices of Peace in all Shires within their Liberties, and all other Maiors, Bayliffes, and chiefe Officers in Townes corporate, or in any Liberties within their Precincts, shall cause the same to be obserued and performed in like manner; and that no manner of Toleration, Favour, or Connivencie be vsed by any Iustice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to do, and the offence, as also the party himselve offending, will answer the same at their vttermost perill: Our Commandement being, That Our Lawes in this case shall be hereafter seuerely executed vpon all offenders whatsoever.

Further charging and commanding the Lord Maior of Our City of London, the Iustices of Assize in their seuerall Circuits, the Maiors and chiefe Officers of all other Cities and Townes corporate, Iustices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and all other Officers and Ministers within the seuerall Counties of this Our Realme, That they and euery of them fully obey this Our Pleasure, and cause to be executed the same to be obeyed and executed by others, as they will answer the contrary at their vttermost perills.

And for the due execution of the premisses in all other the Counties of this Our Realme, as well as in Our Cities of London and Westminster, we doe hereby straightly Charge and Command all Iustices of Peace within the same Counties, as well within Liberties as without, That yeerely before Lent, they cause to come and appeare before them all Inholders,



auerners, Alehouse-keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers Whatsoever, and to re-  
take of them to Our vse, severall Recognizances, with Sureties, for obseruation of the  
same, (viz.) The principals in ten pounds, and their two Sureties in five pounds apiece: And  
if they shall refuse or neglect to enter into such Recognizances, That then the sayd Justices shall sup-  
pounde such persons so refusing, from Victualling any more, and shall also cause them forthwith to  
become bound by Recognizance with Sureties to Our vse, (viz.) The principals in twentie pounds,  
and their two Sureties in tenne pounds apiece, not to Victuall or sell Beere or Ale from thence-  
forth; which if they shall refuse to doe, then the sayd Justices to commit to prison all such persons  
so refusing to enter into such Recognizance, untill they shall submit themselves, and become bound,  
as aforesayd. And further for all such Inholders, Cookes, Lauerners, Alehouse-keepers, But-  
chers, and other Victuallers as shall not appeare before the said Justices, as aforesaid, That they  
immediatly send forth their warrants, or graunt Processe against them and euery of them so  
making default, to appeare and answer their contempt at the next generall Sessions of the Peace.  
And further for the more due punishment of Inholders, Keepers of ordinary Tables, Cookes,  
Butchers, Victuallers, Alehouse-keepers, Lauerners, and such like, who shall forfeit their Recogn-  
izances by killing or dressing of flesh, or suffering it to be eaten in their houses in the Lent time, and  
other fish-daves; And to the end that the same may bee aswell taken in due forme of Law, as due-  
ly certified into Our Exchequer, wee doe will and require all Justices of Peace, as well within  
Liberties as without, That at such times as they shall meet within their severall Diuisions, for  
the taking of such Recognizances, that they giue notice to the Clerkes of the Peace, or their Depu-  
ties, to attend them for that purpose, of whom wee will require a strict Accompt for the Legall  
taking and returning of the same Recognizances into Our sayd Exchequer: The sayd Clerkes of  
the Peace and their Deputies, taking for the making and certifying of the same Recognizances of all  
Inn-keepers, Lauerners, Cookes and Butchers, the Fee of two shillings six pence; And of all  
Alehouse-keepers the Fee of twelue pence, as limited to be taken by the Clerke of the Peace for Our  
Countie of Middlesex for euery such Recognizance, and no more.

And lastly, for that the Fishmongers (vpon the obseruation of the aforesaid Orders) may perhaps  
take occasion thereby to enhance the prices as well of fresh as of Sea fish; we doe therefore hereby  
further charge and command all Fishmongers Whatsoever, That they sell and utter their Fish at  
moderate and vsuall Rates and prices: And that all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Bailiffes, and other  
Our officers as well within Liberties as without, to whom it shal appertaine, shal from time to time  
take such order with the said Fishmongers, that Our Subiects be not grieued by any such enhance-  
ment or encrease of prices vpon Fish, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such further punish-  
ment as may be inflicted vpon them by Our Lawes.

Giuen at Our Court at New-Market the fourth day of February, in the nineteenth yeere of Our Reigne  
of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the five and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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